I start Mr. Chairman, by congratulating you on your election as well as by congratulating the other members of the Bureau for their election also, and by assuring you of my delegation’s support and cooperation. I would also like to extend my delegation’s sincere appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Mona Juul of Norway, for having successfully conducted our work during the sixty-first session hoping that it will not take another 61 years before another woman is re-elected as Chairperson for this important committee.

My delegation also takes this opportunity to welcome the High Representative of the Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, and wishes him success in his efforts as he along with his team at the newly restructured Office for Disarmament Affairs sets of to realize the Secretary-General’s intent to revitalize the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda and to give it the attention it rightly warrants.

My delegation also associates itself with the statement made by of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

This year positive movement has marked our work in the field of disarmament and nonproliferation demonstrating a will and a readiness on the part of Member States to do their best for the sake of advancing the deadlock in this area. The recent repeated disappointments have perhaps pushed delegations to try a bit harder and deliberations where as a result conducted in a more constructive manner. It is hoped that we build on this positive momentum, as we seek to advance our agenda.

Once again, the Conference of Disarmament was able to conduct substantive discussions. We hope that similar positive developments will lead to agreement on a programme of work and to the commencement of negotiations on a fissile material cut off treaty. The conclusion of a universal, unconditional and binding instrument that would provide comprehensive security guarantees to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the NPT also remains just as important.

The Commission on Disarmament also continued on the right track in its second substantive session. It was unfortunate that for the second time the commission was only able to come up with procedural reports on the work of its subsidiary bodies. Next year however, it is hoped that efforts will focus on adopting a substantial outcome and recommendations on the two agenda items that are currently under discussion.

The open-ended working group on a Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament concluded its three sessions and provided an opportunity to stress the need to work towards the convening of this important meeting, which we hope will materialize in the near future.

More importantly is the fact that despite the non-entry into force of key multilaterally negotiated disarmament treaties, it was still possible for States Parties to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and to reiterate the need to comply with its obligations as well as the call for the universality of the convention. It is hoped that next year’s April 2008 meeting will also enhance our undertakings in this regard.

The Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) that was convened last year in December also successfully concluded its work, and Jordan welcomes the establishment of the Implementation Support Unit.
The tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction was celebrated this year in Oslo and elsewhere.

All these developments as you can see, Mr. Chairman are welcomed.

Mr. Chairman,

As the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs had correctly pointed out earlier to this committee, “today, as in the past, many of the world’s deepest sources of insecurities arise from the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction” since “the very existence of nuclear, biological, and chemical arms entails threats or risk of use”. Jordan like others has realized this fact. As party to all main disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, it has chosen on its part to comply with its obligations under these instruments and to work on promoting them. From this stand, Jordan stresses the need to work on strengthening the implementation of all (WMD) instruments and their universalization, and calls upon States that have not signed or acceded to them to do so as soon as possible.

Jordan welcomes the agreement on the agenda for the 2010 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that was concluded in the first Preparatory Committee meeting held in Vienna. It hopes that the remaining preparatory meetings will also yield fruitful outcomes. It is needless to remind, that any future success in our endeavours will entail that we build on the outcome of previous Review Conferences, particularly those held in 1995 and 2000 and honor our NPT obligations.

Mr. Chairman,

The creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones remains vital for maintaining the international non-proliferation regime and consolidating international peace and security. This is especially true for the Middle East region as has been acknowledged by the international community through the numerous GA and SC resolutions NPT review outcomes on the issue, and more recently once again by the Secretary-General in his report to this committee on the establishment of this zone (document A/62/95) in which he notes that State Parties had reiterated their support for this zone at the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. With this respect, Jordan reiterates its position namely that Israel accedes to the NPT and that it implements International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety measures on its unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, as this would not only defuse existing tensions, bring about tangible progress on other bilateral tracks of the peace process, enhance confidence-building measures between all parties, and have an overall positive impact on regional peace and security, but would also prevent the occurrence of potential nuclear accidents and radiological contamination.

Mr. Chairman,

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) provides for the inalienable right of developing countries to engage in the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The respect of this right without discrimination remains imperative and is one of the treaty’s important pillars. Moreover, any disputes that may arise in this context should be settled in a peaceful and diplomatic manner.

Mr. Chairman,
While the best way to prevent terrorists and non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction would be through their total elimination and destruction, the adoption and recent extension of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) has nevertheless made it possible to start addressing the threat posed by such a possibility. Complete and effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) as everyone is aware requires constant cooperation and coordination among Member States including through exchange of information and providing technical support and technological assistance for those states that seek it. This September my country had the honor to host the first regional workshop for Arab states on the implementation of this resolution. This had provided an opportunity for experts in the region to interact with relevant experts from the committee and from other relevant international offices and agencies on this important issue.

In this regard my delegation would like to express my government’s great appreciation and gratitude to the Office of Disarmament Affairs, the Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament affairs and her team, the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations in New York, Chairman of 1540 Committee, and all other partners and donors namely the European Union, Norway and the United States of America that have contributed towards preparing for this workshop and its success.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2006 Conference to Review the Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eliminate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects represented, if nothing else, an opportunity to reiterate our commitment to that Programme as the necessary framework for our collective response at the national, regional and global levels.

Next year’s Biennial Conference will hopefully be another opportunity to examine how far we have gone in the implementation of the 2001 POA, and where we need to go from there. Progress in this area and enhanced regional and international cooperation are vital since no State alone can address the threats posed by the illicit trade in these arms and weapons. Moreover, only through the collective action of the international community will states be able to counter and defuse their danger and devastating consequences. Therefore, the conclusion of the work and the adoption of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on brokering is another welcomed step towards finding new ways to furthering our efforts in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

In the humanitarian efforts to ban landmines, there remains a need for the international community to complement the steady progress in the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction through the mobilization of more resources and the provision of assistance to landmine-clearance operations and rehabilitation of victims, including their social and economic reintegration, as this may be necessary in assisting many Member States to live up to their obligations under the Convention. Equally important is that states that had not yet done so become party to this Convention.

This November, Jordan will have the honor to host the eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention. States Parties will meet once more to reaffirm their commitments and discuss their experiences and the challenges they had encountered in
implementing their obligations. It is hoped that the conference would provide an opportunity for mine-affected countries to voice out their concerns, needs and undertakings, and that the Dead Sea Progress report would bring States Parties and their partners closer towards full implementation of the Convention; thus, allowing us also to move closer towards a mine free.

As State Party to the Ottawa Convention, Jordan has taken effective steps to comply with the convention's provisions. Having completely destroyed all its stockpiles of its anti-personnel mines in 2003, Jordan hopes that it will be able to satisfy its treaty obligations by May 2009 without having to ask for an extension.

Jordan attaches great importance to the attainment of the universality of the Convention and welcomes the accession of the four new States. Jordan also considers that the accession of both Kuwait and Iraq is of particular importance and hopes that it would serve as further impetus for other States in the region to follow suit.

This session, Jordan, as President-designate of the coming review conference will join both the current President of the Meeting of States parties from Australia as well as the preceding President from Croatia in tabling as a Troika the annual resolution on that Convention.

Finally Mr. Chairman, the First Committee provides us with a vital forum to pursue our deliberations on how best to address challenges and concerns in the area of international peace and security with regard to disarmament, non-proliferation and the threat posed both by weapons of mass destruction and by conventional arms. Therefore, my delegation cannot but be in total agreement with you on the need to ensure that the Committee fulfils its role and will do what it can in this regard. It therefore reiterates once again its full support of your efforts hoping that the outcome of our work will be successfully concluded.